



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The June 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.6 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate remained unchanged from May 2002, and was up four-tenths of a percentage point from the June 2001 rate of 4.2 percent. The number of individuals employed increased from May to June by 800 individuals, and an increase of 200 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals—from 11,500 in May to 11,700—in June. The increase in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 1,000 individuals from May to April 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 2,900 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the June 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: June 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	183,031	7,494	4.1	175,537
Adams	1,657	196	11.8	1,461
Boise	2,706	149	5.5	2,557
Canyon	70,287	4,231	6.0	66,056
Elmore	9,874	704	7.1	9,170
Gem	6,170	518	8.4	5,652
Owyhee	4,477	252	5.6	4,225
Payette	9,684	720	7.4	8,964
Valley	4,091	333	8.1	3,758
Washington	4,435	403	9.1	4,032
Statewide	690,875	36,169	5.2	654,706

Approximately 1,100 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were added to the Boise City MSA between May and June 2002, while there was an increase of 500 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since June 2001. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a gain of 900 jobs month-over-month with the only job

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties**

	June 2002*	May 2002	June 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	253,300	252,300	250,400	0.4	1.2
Unemployment	11,700	11,500	10,400	1.7	12.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.6	4.2		
Total Employment	241,600	240,800	240,000	0.3	0.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	255,700	252,000	252,800	1.5	1.1
Unemployment	11,400	10,900	10,100	4.6	12.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.3	4.0		
Total Employment	244,300	241,100	242,700	1.3	0.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	233,700	232,600	233,200	0.5	0.2
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	51,900	51,000	54,400	1.8	-4.6
Construction & Mining	17,100	16,500	17,300	3.6	-1.2
Manufacturing	34,800	34,500	37,100	0.9	-6.2
Durable Goods	26,300	26,100	28,400	0.8	-7.4
Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,100	3,100	3.2	3.2
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,300	2,300	4.3	4.3
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,200	1,300	-8.3	-15.4
Ind & Com Mach & Computer Equip	7,300	7,200	7,700	1.4	-5.2
Electronic & Other Elect Equip. & Comp	11,200	11,100	12,700	0.9	-11.8
Transportation Equipment	1,800	1,700	1,800	5.9	0.0
Other Durable Goods	1,700	1,800	1,800	-5.6	-5.6
Nondurable Goods	8,500	8,400	8,700	1.2	-2.3
Food & Kindred Products	5,800	5,700	5,900	1.8	-1.7
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,800	1,700	1,800	5.9	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	181,800	181,600	178,800	0.1	1.7
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,500	12,300	12,500	1.6	0.0
Transportation	7,000	6,900	7,000	1.4	0.0
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Ser	5,500	5,400	5,500	1.9	0.0
Trade	56,900	56,500	57,500	0.7	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	13,200	13,000	13,000	1.5	1.5
Durable Goods	8,100	8,000	8,000	1.3	1.3
Nondurable Goods	5,100	5,000	5,000	2.0	2.0
Retail Trade	43,700	43,500	44,500	0.5	-1.8
General Merchandise Stores	5,700	5,600	5,600	1.8	1.8
Foods Stores	7,300	7,300	7,800	0.0	-6.4
Eating & Drinking Places	15,700	15,700	15,700	0.0	0.0
Other Retail Trade	15,000	14,900	15,400	0.7	-2.6
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Services	11,900	11,900	11,500	0.0	3.5
Business Services	64,600	64,000	62,500	0.9	3.4
Health Services	14,000	14,000	14,700	0.0	-4.8
Hospitals	19,200	19,100	18,100	0.5	6.1
Eng, Acct., Res, Mngmt., & Related	9,200	9,100	8,300	1.1	10.8
Other Services	5,700	5,500	5,100	3.6	11.8
Government	25,700	25,400	24,600	1.2	4.5
Federal Government	35,900	36,900	34,800	-2.7	3.2
State Government	5,400	5,300	5,400	1.9	0.0
Education	12,600	13,700	12,400	-8.0	1.6
Administration	3,600	4,600	3,500	-21.7	2.9
Local Government	9,000	9,100	8,900	-1.1	1.1
Education	17,900	17,900	17,000	0.0	5.3
Administration	11,600	11,800	11,000	-1.7	5.5
Administration	6,300	6,100	6,000	3.3	5.0

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

losses occurring in *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100) and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100). Job gains occurred in *Mining & Construction* (600), *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (100), *Electronic & Other Electric Equipment & Component Manufacturing* (100), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100), and *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100).

The year-over-year data is quite different as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 2,500 jobs. Job losses occurred in: *Mining & Construction* (200), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (200), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (400), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (1,500), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100), *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100), and *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products Manufacturing* (100). *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100) was the only *Goods-Producing Industry* to create new jobs over the year. The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries gained 200 jobs between May and June 2002. Job losses in *State Government Education* (1,000), *State Government Administration* (100), and *Local Government Education* (200) were outpaced by job increases in *Transportation* (100), *Communication & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (100), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Other Retail Trade* (100), *Health Services* (100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* (200), *Other Services* (300), *Federal Government* (100), and *Local Government Administration* (200) to create the net increase in the number of *Service-Producing Industry* jobs gained over the month. Year-over-year, there was an increase of 3,000 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (400), *Health Services* (1,100), primarily *Hospitals* (900), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (600), *Other Services* (1,100), *State Government Education* (100), *State Government Administration* (100), *Local Government Education* (600), and *Local Government Administration* (300) outpacing job losses in *Food Stores* (500), *Other Retail Trade* (400), and *Business Services* (700).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- St. Luke's Regional Medical Center held its centennial celebration in late July. The hospital also asked

its employees to cut costs by \$1 million a month so that the hospital can break even in September; lower patient counts and declining reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid contributed to the drop in revenues. Company officials announced plans to determine which programs impact communities the most and revise and reduce programs that are not critical. In early July, St. Luke's announced that no layoffs were planned. St. Luke's also unveiled its new Air St. Luke's ambulance service in late July; the new service includes one fixed-wing aircraft and one helicopter—company officials are confident there are enough patients in the area to accommodate both St. Luke's Air St. Luke's and St. Alphonsus' Life-Flight programs.

- The Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital announced in mid-July between 40 and 60 employees would be laid off as the Boise facility struggles with declining admissions. The staff reductions occurred hospital-wide with each department cutting costs.
- Albertsons, Inc. announced in late July it has dropped the apostrophe from its official name for consistency, according to company officials. The company also announced plans for a major expansion in Texas. The company plans to roll out a four-year, \$107 million investment in Austin that will include remodeling, new gas stations, and new stores. Company officials say that the investment is meant to strengthen and increase market share. Albertsons also presented a \$100,000 check to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation after it made the commitment to donate 25 cents for each customer who signed up for the Preferred Savings Card to a maximum of \$100,000. The Foundation will divide the donation among its four branches in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Utah.
- ProClarity Corp. received \$7.75 million from a Palo Alto, California, venture capital firm, Summit Accelerator Fund. The firm invests in profitable companies with a strong cash flow and who offer a strong product in the analytic market.
- ZiLOG and USA Technologies recently signed a letter of intent to work together to develop vending and point-of-sale reference designs. This technology would allow PDAs, cell phones, and other wireless applications to communicate with vending machines, bar code scanners, and credit accounts. Both companies will share in the cost of developing and marketing the technology. The deal is expected to be finalized in late August. The move is part of a trend on ZiLOG's part to change the way it markets its technology.
- MicronPC entered into a \$6 million contract to supply computers to the U.S. Army Reserve. The com-

pany also announced the unveiling of two new notebook computers in July, the Transport T1000 and the Transport V1000. The T1000 weighs about five pounds and is one of the fastest, lightest, fully featured notebook computers on the market. The notebook, which can accommodate a variety of peripheral options and includes a fingerprint scanner, retails for about \$2,050. The V1000 is being marketed as MicronPC's lowest priced notebook computer, with prices starting at \$1,199. The V1000 weighs 7.5 pounds and company officials say that this full-feature model is an affordable, solid performer.

- The Snake River Stampede, held in early July in Nampa, brought about \$1 million into the community through hotel bookings and increased activity for local businesses, services, and other organizations. This year, 630 cowboys and cowgirls signed up to compete during the five-day rodeo for a record \$316,659 in total prize money. The rodeo also is a major fundraising event for a number of Canyon County entities including Canyon County 4-H, Kiwanis Club of Nampa, Nampa Exchange Club, and Nampa Lions Club. The event operates using a vast number of volunteers.
- Environmental Oil Processing Technology Corp. recently installed new equipment used in the process of producing gasoline, diesel fuel, burner fuel, and residue from used oil. Equipment includes a stripping column, three exchangers, nine pumps, gasoline accumulators, air coolers, and a custom-designed vessel. In addition, the company replaced an existing control system with a new digital system and installed new control valves and transmitters. Overall, the changes are expected to produce a higher-quality product with fewer residues that will plug processing equipment. The plant was operational at the end of July.
- Construction of the Walgreens continues at Tenth Avenue and Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell, even though scaffolding collapsed in mid-July after a windstorm swept through the county. The store is scheduled to open in February. The 13,650-square-foot store will feature a drive-through pharmacy and one-hour photo service, and will sell groceries and household items.
- Recent business happenings in Ada County include: the re-opening of Towne Square Cinemas, leased by the Reel Theaters, which will show medium run (partially discounted) movies; the finalization of General Growth Properties' purchase of Boise Towne Square from JP Realty Properties in early July; the opening of Fish, Aquariums & Stuff located at 10536 Fairview Avenue in Boise; the leasing of space for a new Headshots outlet in the Fairview Plaza West, located at 10542 Fairview Avenue in

Boise; leasing of space for a new Commercial Tire outlet in the Central Park Commerce Center located at 2240 South Cole Road in Boise; the opening of an Arby's franchise in the Family Center at Family Way; leasing of space for a new Wireless Gateway outlet at the Franklin Towne Plaza located at 1951 Saturn Way; the purchase of Denton's Printing in Boise by BizPrint and Cahill Jones; approval by the Boise City Council of the use of a North End home as a halfway house for 18- to 20-year-olds leaving the criminal justice system; approval from the Ada County Commissioners to construct a 300- to 400-bed addition to the county jail; and the construction of the first commercial building in Harris Ranch, Mill Station, which started in mid-July.

- Recent business happenings in Canyon County include: the opening of Harvest Classic Deli located at 914 Park Centre Way in Nampa; the relocation of Mott's Flower Shop from 319 Twelfth Avenue South to a new home at 212 Fourteenth Avenue South in Nampa; the opening of Rock, Paper, Scissors, a retail outlet for scrapbooking, card making, and rubber stamp supplies at 732 Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa; a recent groundbreaking for Alsip 7 Persons Funeral Chapel for its upcoming renovation at its location at 404 Tenth Avenue South in Nampa; the opening of a new Dollar Store at 5210 East Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell; the re-opening of Mancino's Pizza & Subs at 2412 East Cleveland to celebrate the new owners; and the openings of Oasis Day Spa and Wellness Center, Bennett Chiropractic Center, and Oasis Café at 923 Grant Street in Caldwell.

Adams County

- Council's Brown Building, which was remodeled recently, now has three tenants. The new Chamber of Commerce office is located in the building as well as the Washington Adams Visions for Entrepreneurship group (WAVE). Community and Economic Development Consultant Jim Birdsall also has an office in the building. The newest addition for the Brown Building is a private, non-profit library that will contain over 8,000 books on economics and business. The Center for the Study of Market Alternatives Library Collection was compiled in 1972, was housed at Albertson College for ten years, moved to Boise State and will now be kept in the Brown Building. The collection is not intended for public use, although a reading room is planned that will be open to the public.

Boise County

- Warm Springs Resort in Idaho City closed recently when a private family purchased the hot springs, pool, cabins, and campground on 77 acres. The previous owners tried to sell the resort to the city or a

community organization, but those efforts failed. The new owners do not intend to reopen the resort to the public.

Elmore County

- The Mountain Home Chamber annual event, the Barbecue, Bingo, Golf and Auction (BBG&A), took place in early July and had its most successful year on record. The yearly event is usually the largest fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce. More than 80 golfers played in the tournament, a slightly smaller group gathered for bingo, more than 155 meal ticket holders gathered for the barbecue, and at the end, 73 items/packages were offered for bid at the auction. A 1984 Ford Ranger brought in the highest bid for a single item. No final figures were released on how much money the Chamber raised for the effort.
- Pioneer Financial Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pioneer Federal Credit Union, recently acquired Mountain Home Insurance Agency, Inc. Adding the insurance agency to existing offerings allows Pioneer Financial Services to provide its clients with a well-rounded package of financial services. The business is located at 210 South Third East Street in Mountain Home.

Gem County

- Recent business happenings in Gem County include the opening of Y & J's Classical Boutique-N-Things. The business offers clothing, gifts and jewelry. Antiques and new items are added frequently. The business is located at 107 West Second Street in Emmett.

Payette County

- Ogawa's Teriyaki Hut recently opened at Poose's Country Store located at North Sixteenth Street in Payette. The restaurant specializes in teriyaki chicken rice bowls, California rolls, teriyaki beef, and mafa chicken. Student specials are available during the school year.
- Energy Development Group (EDG) recently presented plans to the Payette County Commissioners to construct a 300-megawatt generating plant about 1.5 miles southwest of Payette. The system would use a high-efficiency combined cycle system to turn natural gas into steam and electricity. The project would cost nearly \$125 million and would create 250 construction jobs and 15 to 20 full-time jobs. Before the project can continue, Idaho Power must give permission for EDG to have access to Idaho Power's lines, which would most likely include a feasibility study.

Valley County

- Boise Corp. (formerly Boise Cascade) held an auction of the company's Cascade sawmill building and

equipment in late-July. After buyers pick up the equipment the dismantling of the mill will begin, which is expected to start in October. Company officials hope to have the structure removed before the first heavy snow. Next spring, the company will start rehabilitating the site in a process that could take a few years. No information was released on what the company will do with the land once the dismantling and clean-up projects are finished.

- The McCall office of the Idaho Small Business Development Center (SBDC) recently moved from 100 North Third Street in McCall to the McCall Job Service Building at 299 South Third Street. All services and the telephone number (634-2883) will remain the same, including one-on-one consulting on a variety of small business topics including start-up issues, financial topics, cash flow, accounting, business plans, marketing, and personnel.
- In July, the McCall-Donnelly High School started using its new, fully electronic classroom for training teachers how to tie technology into daily instruction. The room is equipped with rows of flat-screen monitors, white screens in place of blackboards, video cameras, scanners, laser jet printers, and microphones. The new classroom was funded by a grant from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation. The classroom will be open to McCall-Donnelly students, staff, and district residents during the school year.

Washington County

- The Weiser Police Department announced in early June that a 30- by 50-foot building will be constructed just north of the Greenhouse in Memorial Park; City Council members approved the project. The new building will house the Department's successful after-school program. Currently, the Greenhouse shelters all indoor activities and cannot accommodate all participants. The new building would be used exclusively for recreation. The project should be completed by the end of September.
- Other recent happenings in Washington County include the opening of a Quinco Credit Union branch in Weiser and the demolition of the Eastside Market, located at the northeast corner of Main and Seventh Streets in Weiser.

Jennifer Pirtle, Regional Labor Economist
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 895-6642
E-mail: jpirtle@jobservice.us